

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 REYKJA 01117 242334Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 LAB-04 SIL-01 HA-05 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /071 W
-----101165 242339Z /70

O R 242000Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8664
INFO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1117

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IC
SUBJECT: PEOPLE' S ALLIANCE ABANDONS EFFORT TO FORM COALITION

REF: A) REYKJAVIK 1104 DTG 231443Z AUG 78
B) REYKJAVIK 1112 DTG 241442Z AUG 78

1. ON LATE AFTERNOON AUGUST 24 PEOPLE' S ALLIANCE (PA)
CHAIRMAN LUDVIK JOSEPPSSON MET WITH PRESIDENT ELDJARN AND
INFORMED HIM THAT HIS PARTY'S ATTEMPT TO FORM THREE-PARTY
GOVERNMENT WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) AND PROGRESSIVE
PARTY (PP) HAD FAILED. JOSEPPSSON SAID THAT HE FELT THREE
PARTIES HAD REACHED BASIS FOR GOVERNMENT BUT OBSTACLES CREATED
BY SDP MADE CURRENT EFFORT IMPOSSIBLE. HE HOPED, HOWEVER,
THAT IT WOULD STILL BE POSSIBLE TO FORM PA-SDP-PP GOVERNMENT
IN LATER ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS.

2. WHEN ASKED FOR COMMENT PP CHAIRMAN OLAFUR JOHANNESSEN
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SAID HE WAS DISAPPOINTED BUT THOUGHT THAT PRESIDENT
WOULD NOW TURN TO HIM TO FORM MAJORITY GOVERNMENT. SDP
CHAIRMAN BENEDIKT GRONDAL ALSO COMMENTED ON BREAKUP OF TALKS SAYING THAT

HE TOO WANTED THIS THREE-PARTY COALITION BUT JOSEPPSSON' S
DEMAND (FOR SDP DECISION ON PRIME MINISTRY BEFORE ALL
OTHER POINTS IN COALITION PROGRAM HAD BEEN AGREED) MADE

THIS ROUND FAILURE. HE WAS STILL HOPEFUL, HOWEVER THAT
LEFT-OF-CENTER GOVERNMENT COULD BE FORMED.

3. PRESIDENT ELDJARN HAS MADE NO STATEMENT CONCERNING
NEXT STEP HE WOULD TAKE.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.
BLAKE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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